

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were pending in this application when the present Office Action was mailed on July 10, 2008. In this response, claims 3, 12-20, and 23 have been canceled. Claims 32-38 have been added. Claims 1, 4, 5, 21, 24, and 25 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5-11, 21, 22, and 24-38 are pending.

In the Non-final Office Action mailed on July 10, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6-22, and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Examiner also objected to claims 3-5 and 23-25 for depending on rejected base claims. For the reasons set forth in detail below, applicants submit that the present application, including each of pending claims, is in condition for allowance.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on August 5, 2008, during which the current rejection and the prior art were discussed. During the telephone interview, the above claim amendments were discussed. The Examiner provisionally agreed to withdraw the Section 103 rejection, pending a further review of the case. The foregoing and following remarks summarize and expand upon the points discussed during the August 5 telephone interview and reflect the foregoing agreement. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this paper constitute applicants' interview summary. If the Examiner notices any deficiencies in this regard, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney. For the reasons set forth in detail below, applicants submit that the present application, including each of pending claims, is in condition for allowance.

Applicants wish to thank the examiner for finding allowable subject matter in the pending claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of dependent claim 3, which was found to contain allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate features of dependent claim 23, which was similarly found to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have added new claims

32-38, which are directed to substantially the same subject matter as claims 1 and 21, but are directed to a method for generating a clock signal. Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims include the features indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 21, and 32 should be found allowable for at least these reasons.

Dependent claims 2 and 6-11 depend from claim 1, dependent claims 22 and 24-31 depend from claim 21, and dependent claims 33-38 depend from claim 32. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for at least the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Chun M. Ng at (206) 359-8000.

Respectfully submitted,
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